

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 33 No. 6

June 15, 1964

Whole No. 381


Vol. 1, No. 2 | **GRAND PRIZE CONTEST!**
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THE CARTS PULLED THE LANTARD AND IMMEDIATELY FOR LOVING GAVE A FLASH AND A BOOM.
(Mark Mallory's War of Lost, by Louis Frederic Cotton, U.S.A.)

CONTENTS.

COMPLETE IN THIS NUMBER

MARK MALLORY'S HOUR OF TRIAL; or, The Maniac of the Devil's Den.
A West Point Cadet's Remarkable Adventure, by Lieut. Ferdinand Gorman, U.S.A.

CLIF PARADAY'S RISK; or, A Filling in Need.
A Telling Story of Royal Academy Life, by Ensign Charles Finch, U.S.N.

SERIALS.

THE TREASURE OF ISORA; or, The Giant Islanders of Tibouou.
A Tale of Adventure, by Bertha McCornick

THE CRYPTOGRAM. By Wm. Murray Graydon.
A Splendid Story of Northwest Canada

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH. By Arthur Lee Putnam.
A Boy's Struggle for Fortune in the Great Metropolis

KIT WATSON'S TRIUMPH; or, The Adventures of a Boy Acrobat.
A Stirring Tale of Circus Life, by Horatio Alger, Jr.

SHORT STORIES, DEPARTMENTS, SKETCHES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1898. STREET & SMITH, PUBLISHERS.

DIME NOVEL SKETCHES No. 56

HALF HOLIDAY

A continuation of Army and Navy Weekly. Began Feb. 5, 1898, and ended August 13, 1898 after 28 weekly issues. No. 29 may have been issued but no known copy exists. Contained stories of Clif Farday at Annapolis and Mark Mallory at West Point and serials by popular boys authors. Street & Smith was the publisher.

Doctor Quartz and Other Nine-Lived Villains

by J. Edward Leithead

(Concluded)

The Dazaar tales were reprinted in Magnet #409, Nick Carter's Double Catch and #427, The Sign of the Dagger, reprinted New Magnet #1175 and #1111 (the first was last in this repeat), One lone Dazaar story, the one in which Ethel Carter is murdered, is lost with two stories of the Black Hand in New Magnet #484, The Finger of Suspicion (with this number the library changed from 10c to 15c and increased its number of pages per volume), reprinted again in New Magnet #1027.

Mr. Dey was again in the mood to create nine-lived villains and put them through their dance macabre when he wrote the "Idayah and Zanabayah" series in New Nick Carter Weekly; he had more or less paved the way for these by producing two fanciful tales in #529, The Index of Seven Stars, or, Nick Carter Finds the Hidden City and #530, An Amazonian Queen, or, Nick Carter Becomes a Gladiator. In the latter issue, in a setting like ancient Rome, Nick turns gladiator, with broadsword and buckler, battling lions in an arena in defense of a gorgeous female who might have stepped from a palace of the long-dead Caesars. Roundabout the galleries are crowded with spectators clad, for the most part, in togas. Nick himself wears a leopard skin, the mighty right arm of "The Little Giant" making powerful cuts with the broadsword at the attacking big cats. Marmaduke Russell was the artist; he was particularly good at drawing beautiful women. "An Englishman," Charles L. Wrenn once told me, "who had aspirations to be a portrayer of beau-

tiful women for magazine covers."

Russell had an opportunity to do another striking beauty several issues later in New Nick Carter Weekly, #533 was Facing an Unseen Terror, or, Nick Carter's Day of Blunders. Here Dey introduced Idayah, a mystery woman from a far-off country whose beautiful white-gold hair above a youthful face would today have labeled her a 'platinum blonde.'

The crime which brought Idayah first to Nick Carter's notice was an unusual murder at a horse show in the old Madison Square Garden. One of the thoroughbreds, while being put through its paces, apparently without reason suddenly reared up, striking savagely with forehoofs at the murder victim. Nick blundered a time or two before he discovered the horse had been trained to lash out at the smell of a certain kind of perfume used by this party. He nearly lost his own life later, when, about to enter a hack drawn up at the street curb, Idayah whipped a knife at him from the window of a dwelling at the detective's back (this is the scene portrayed by Russell for the cover of #533).

But the knife zipped by Nick's ear, he escaped to pursue her more determinedly in #534, Idayah, the Woman of Mystery, or, Nick Carter's Four-fold Problem. The cover of this one is a startler (another of Russell's). It shows Nick leaping from an airship (too early in the century for an airplane) which is half revealed in the roving beam of a searchlight in New York Harbor. Abduction by airship was just an author's flight of fancy

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP, Vol. 33, No. 6, Whole No. 381, June 15, 1964
Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. Subscription \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per quarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

then, more feasible in these times.

Not only had Idayah a passion for riches, but she was the power behind the throne in her own country (to which she had been returning with Starbuck when Nick interfered, as noted above), thus Dey put Nick to severe test in #535, *The Making of a King*, or, *Nick Carter Faces His Greatest Mystery*. In #536, *The Empire of a Goddess*, or, *Nick Carter's Wonderful Adventure*, Idayah is beginning to like Mr. Carter a little bit, but, even though attracted (who wouldn't be the way Dey described her and Russell drew her on the cover, in a sort of semi-military, white-and-gold drum majorette costume, official dress for her as honorary "colonel of the guards"), Nick didn't trust the gal!

The action shifted back and forth between New York and the mountainous regions of India. Idayah's associates were a weird lot, in particular Zanabayah, the Vitic King. When you read "vitic" you think of vitality, energy. Well, this monster—not so much in appearance, being tall, slender, in appearance, being tall, slender, in topcoat, but with "hypnotic eyes"—was in the way of being a human electric battery. The cover illustration of #537, *Zanabayah, the Terrible*, or, *Nick Carter's Struggle With the Vitic King*, shows Zanabayah (and Russell did a good job) standing outside of a hotel elevator paralyzing Nick with his "vitic power" (by a touch of the hand, to which Nick reacts as if he'd grabbed a live wire), sending the de-

tective reeling back as he is about to arrest Zanabayah. The elevator door is partly open, and a scared-looking man in uniform, the operator, is peering out.

#538, *The Seven-headed Monster*, or, *Nick Carter's Midnight Caller* winds up this series (we have a closer look at the airship this time, but the artist is Edward Johnson). Although most of the Nick Carter Weekly tales turned up again in Magnet and New Magnet Library, these "Idayah and Zanabayah" stories apparently were never reprinted. They may just have been overlooked, or, on second editorial thought, were considered too bizarre. At any rate they were good variety. Dey knew how to write this sort of thing and the covers were extra extra.

There were other nine-lived villains in Nick Carter's fight against crime; and I will continue this subject in greater detail in what I hope will be the first of a series on specific dime novel stories, to be published in the DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP under the general title, "The Anatomy of Dime Novels."

The End

Back numbers *Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup*, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 119. Leo W. Lorenzo, 1044 Franklin St., Reading, Pa. (New address)
- 138. George C. Trefry, 507 North H St., Lake Worth, Fla. (New address)
- 217. Dan Adams, 319 So. Kenter Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90049 (New mem.)
- 218. W. H. Brooks, 520 La Belle Ave., Oconomowoc, Wis. (New Member)
- 152. Sam Moskowitz, 361 Roseville Ave., Newark 7, N. J. (New address)
- 214. Michael Fogaris, 38 Ackerson Place, Passaic, N. J. (New address)
- 73. Fred Lee, Ada's Golden Age, Room 5, 2115 Central Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. (New address)
- 223. Frances Aaron, Speech Dept., Stephen F. Austin College, Nacogdoches, Texas (New member)
- 4. George French, Orchard Drive, Towaco, N. J. (New address)

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTORS BOOK SHELF

WE THE WOMEN, Career Firsts of 19th Century America, by Madeleine B. Stern. 403 p. Schulte Publishing Co., New York, 1963. \$7.95. Of interest to dime novel collectors due to its well written and annotated biography of Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, author of the first dime novel.

CHEAP BOOK PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1870-1891 by Raymond Howard Shove, A. M. University of Illinois Library, Urbana, Ill., 1937. This was Mr. Shove's Arts Master's degree thesis and it provides an interesting study of the cheap book struggle that had its climax in the failure of the Lovell Brothers attempt at rationalization of the U. S. Book Company. (This book was brought to the editor's attention by Denis Rogers.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DIME NOVELS 1860-1964, by Charles Bragin. Printed by the Miller Print Shop who also prints the Round-up. Paper covers with numerous illustrations. Not up to Mr. Bragin's first bibliography but a must for all dime novel collectors. Mr. Bragin hopes that the bibliography will be used for setting prices similar to dealers who use stamp or coin catalogues.

REMEMBER MAINE, by Keith Johnson with photos by George French. Mr. French is one of the few 35-year members of the Happy Hour Brotherhood. Durrell Publications, New York, New York, December 1963. \$2.75. "The photographer George French has not been a landmark on the Maine scene as long as Mt. Katahdin, but his stature and reputation are comparable. The arrangement of some of his most beautiful pictures with the few well selected words makes the book irresistible to native and visitor."

HORATIO ALGER; or, The American Hero Era, by Ralph D. Gardner. 505 p. Wayside Press, Mendota, Ill., 1964. \$5.95. An excellently written biography of Alger with the most complete bibliography yet published. A must for all Alger collectors.

PAPER BACK PULPIT By Noble Tribble

(Reprinted from the March 15, 1964 issue of **THE LOOKOUT** by special permission of the publishers)

His father wanted him to be a carpenter, his mother wanted him to be a minister but Gilbert Patten chose to be a writer. Even though Patten didn't fulfill the desire of either parent, it seems evident that the influence of their Christian faith and rigid home discipline greatly influenced Gilbert's blueprint for a fabulous fiction hero who was to become the idol of every red-blooded American boy for a generation.

At the turn of the century Frank Merriwell was the hero of heroes. Each week 135,000 boys rushed to buy a copy of **TIP TOP WEEKLY**—"An ideal publication for American youth."

The masthead did not overstate the claim, for Frank Merriwell was the ideal American youth. Each week for almost twenty years these Merriwell fans eagerly absorbed every paragraph of a twenty-thousand-word story about the exciting adventures of a handsome clean-living athlete who never lost a game, but who usually had to come through with a home run in the ninth inning to do it. Nor did this brave young man ever lose an encounter with the "dastardly cads" who plotted the "fiendish foul play." Even with an occasional wrenched shoulder or a broken bone Frank Merriwell proved himself to be a most durable hero through nine hundred stories.

And his fans were just as durable. There were ten thousand Merriwell fans for every Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer booster. Even his closest rival, Horatio Alger, was on the short end of a five hundred to one score.

The creator of this all-time all-American athlete was certainly not the prototype. He was too lazy to go to school, quitting at the age of fourteen. But six months later he announced himself a writer and proved it to his astonished father by writ-

ing two short stories in four days and selling them for six dollars.

Like most authors, he had his literary ups and downs. But on April 18, 1896, Frank Merriwell, who was destined to influence the morals of the nation, was born.

Patten, writing under the name Burt L. Standish, made Frank Merriwell a champion of high ideals and relentless campaigner against liquor, tobacco, and night life. Frank didn't preach, but he showed how these vices were injurious to health.

Patten got his point across. Each year for some twenty years he received an average of fifty letters a week from Frank Merriwell fans.

While none was ever able to master Frank's famous double curve which broke in and then out before reaching the plate, many of them did master the Merriwell virtues of courage, loyalty, honor and upright living.

(Reprinting suggested by Walter E. Brown of Levittown, Pa.)

TO EACH HIS OWN

Johnny was deeply engrossed in an Old King Brady story. His father noticed this and lectured his son to read literature that would tend to mental improvement. Johnny's father then returned to his Police Gazette.

When Johnny's mother discovered him reading a Frank Merriwell baseball story she told him it would never do for moral intelligent society and then went back to reading her "Memoirs of Catherine II."

One afternoon the boy's uncle caught him reading a Nick Carter adventure story and reproved him for not doing some chores instead. His uncle, who had remained home from work, allegedly indisposed, then went fishing and returning home purchased his copy of the "Racing Form."

Johnny's Aunt Abigail, noticed her nephew reading Buffalo Bill Stories and exhorted him to read something more edifying. Abigail then returned to peruse "Laura Jean Libby."

Johnny, bewildered to suit so many different people, decided that they all

might agree on one special periodical.

So, one day, they all saw Johnny with a cheerful smiling face reading "The Christian Endeavor Weekly." They one and all felt they had changed the boy's literary tastes. However, behind the favored Endeavor weekly Johnny was reading a copy of "Snaps" which was the source of his happy innocent expression.

—Daniel A. Driscoll

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Ed: I remember telling you about a Buffalo Bill story that appeared in Western Story Magazine. I have finally checked my files and here is the info. It was a 3-part serial called "Buffalo Bill's Boyhood," by Col. Prentiss Ingraham and appeared starting with the November 1, 1930, issue. I have only one issue so cannot be certain about its being in 3 parts. —Bill Clark, Arlington, Va.

Dear Ed: Present HHB membership card takes up 4½ inches while average compartment in a wallet is about 3½ inches. I tried cutting it down to a wallet size but it cuts out part of the heading. Why not get a wallet size membership card.—Ed McNabb. (Ed. note. I expect to have a new membership card of proper dimensions ready for distribution some time this summer.)

Dear Ed: I recently mailed a letter to James E. Knott, a long time member of the Rounduppers and a Merriwell fan who has contributed some fine articles to the Roundup, and it was returned marked "deceased." So I guess another of the old timers has passed on.—J. P. Guinon, Little Rock, Ark.

Dear Ed: I enjoy Dime Novel Round Up so much, I've decided to take out a life membership subscription. I hope the Dime Novel Round-up goes on forever!—Michael Fogaris, Passaic, N. J. (Ed. Note. Life memberships are available to individuals for \$15.00. I guarantee at least 5 years continued publication, I hope to continue indefinitely.)

Dear Ed: Am anxious to know how you are getting along with the several bibliographies that you are working on. Send me any that are finished.—C. G. Mayo, Huntington, Vt. (Ed. Note: Expect to have a listing of Wide Awake Library ready some time this summer).

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: Thank you very much for the copies of the Round-up. I have found them very useful. I look forward to many years of membership in the Dime Novel Round-up.—Frances Aaron, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Dear Ed: I am past 78. We are down here in St. Petersburg for the winter. I play ball with the $\frac{3}{4}$ Century Soft Ball Club here and am one of the captains this year. We play three games weekly from December 1 through April 1. I am still trying to get #99 of Diamond Dick Weekly. I have advertised for it but to no avail. I could also use the first 13 issues of Tip Top Library in the original colored covers.—James H. VanDemark 528 6th St. North, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33701.

Dear Ed: My wife and I will travel through the European countries for several months by car this summer and fall. My subscription for the Round-up is due this June so I am enclosing my check. I cannot afford to lose my numerical rating nor one issue.—Ross DeVean, Riverside, Calif.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: There are about 10 to 20,000 public libraries in the United States, and I think that each one of them should have a complete set of books of Frank Merriwell and Dick Merriwell. I remember reading some of the Merriwell stories in the 1900's and as these stories taught the best examples of manhood and morality and courage in collegiate and university life, I think that by all means they should be on the shelves of libraries in every state of the United States.—H. L. Ryan, Box 881, Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: I am having no luck at all in my efforts to add to my oil novel collection. It seems strange that I can find just about

any number in a series except those that I need. I am enclosing an ad for the April Round-up, but I am not very hopeful.—W. R. Johnson. (If you did not do so at the time, check Mr. Johnson's ad and see if you can help him with his wants.)

Dear Ed: Mostly I like the people I meet. Books are books but DNR subscribers are peerless as people go.—John K. Pollard, Jr.

Ed McNabb sent a copy of the special section given with the New York papers giving a history of the comics 1896 to 1963. I found it very interesting. I wonder if any thought has been given to the possibility that the comics were an outgrowth of the cartoons illustrating comic stories in Boys of New York, Young Men of America and other story papers of the 1880's and 1890's.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES CONCERNING DIME NOVELS

OKLAHOMA'S ORBIT, The Magazine of The Sunday Oklahoman. Exciting Books that Boys Used to Read, by Francis Thetford. A review of the dime novel collection of W. R. Johnson. A nice picture of Mr. Johnson and some of his "oil" dime novels.

WRITER'S DIGEST, March 1964. The Word Merchants, by Bill Heuman. "Paperback bestsellers are not new. Fifty years ago, Edgar Wallace and Frederic Dey were turning out 15c paperbacks at the rate of 50,000 words a week for their eager readers. A few writers, with mellowed styles, bridged the gap from dime novels to the slicks;" A superficial history of dime novels well written from published sources.

WANTED

in excellent condition, Hardback Frank Merriwells preferably chocolate brown colored covers. Also Putnam Hall Series and Dave Porter in originals.

Jack R. Schorr

853 So. Lemon St., Anaheim, Calif.

BASEBALL SEASON

The game opened up with Glue at the stick and Small Pox catching. Cigar was in the box, Strawberry Cake played short, and Corn was in the field. Egg was umpire and he was rotten. Cigar let Board walk. Song made a hit, and Sawdust filled the bases. Then Soap cleaned up. Cigar went out and Balloon started to pitch, but went up in the air. Cherry tried it but was wild. Ice went in and kept cool until he was hit by the ball, then you ought to have heard Ice Cream. Lightning finished the game and struck out six men. Lunatic was put out because he was off his base. Bread loafed on third and Light was out on first. Crook stole second. Cabbage was manager because he had a good head. Knife was called out for cutting first base. Grass covered lots of ground and the crowd cheered when Spider caught a fly. Steak was out on the home plate. Clock wound up the game by striking out. If Door had pitched he would have shut them out. (Author unknown) A scrap from Roy B. VanDevier's scrap book.

FORMER BADMAN OF OLD WEST DIES

(Sent in by Gerald J. McIntosh)

Tarzara, Calif.—Dec. 26 — Al Jennings, aged 98, pint-sized badman of the Oklahoma Territory, who won a presidential pardon in 1907 and went on to become an evangelist, attorney and politician, died today at his home here.

Jennings, who claimed he robbed 15 or 20 trains at the turn of the century, was sentenced to life in prison in 1902. Five years later he was pardoned by President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1914, Jennings ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Oklahoma. At the encouragement of his brother he studied law and later was elected county attorney at El Reno, Oklahoma.

Jennings went to Hollywood just after World War I and his reputation as a gunslinger in the old days was strong enough to earn him jobs as a

motion picture technical advisor. He later bought a small chicken ranch and settled down here.

—News item in Arkansas Gazette, Dec. 27, 1961

GIL PATTEN VINDICATED

by J. P. Guinon

In the "Newsy News" columns of the December issue of the Round-Up appears an account of a "boner" allegedly committed by Gilbert Patten in the stories written by him in Tip Top Weekly Nos. 179 and 180. According to "Newsy News" in No. 179 Frank Merriwell, pitching for Maplewood against Rockford in the Trolley League, was drugged and knocked out near the end of the game, his place on the team being taken by Duke Derringer, whose relief pitching won for Maplewood. "Newsy News" goes on to state that the next issue of Tip Top, No. 180, starts off with a rehash of the game played in No. 179 in which it is described how Merriwell won it with a home run in the ninth inning, obviously impossible if he had left the game in an earlier inning. "Newsy News" refers to this as "a big blunder by Mr. Patten."

A blunder occurred, all right, but it was by "Newsy News" instead of Patten. The ball game described in the opening pages of No. 180 and evidently mistaken by "Newsy News" for a resume of the game in No. 179, was a different ball game, played on the day following the one in which Merriwell was knocked out, Frank having

Just Off the Press!

HORATIO ALGER

or, the American Hero Era

By Ralph D. Gardner,

noted Alger collector

Clothbound. 508 pages. Illustrated.

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Bibliography section (104 pages) describes every book Alger wrote, identifies first editions, ascribes market evaluations.

WAYSIDE PRESS

Dept. D, Mendota, Illinois

recovered enough by the next day to play the entire game scheduled for that date and win it with his specialty, a home run in the last inning. All this is covered in Chapter 2 of No. 180.

Patten's famous Merriwell stories contained occasional boners, some of them truly magnificent, but the one ascribed to him by "Newsy News" in this instance did not happen.

NEWSY NEWS

Col. Charles D. Randolph says he'll pay \$2.00 each for these two novels:

Beadles Dime Novels #206, Buckskin Bill, By Greenwood. Also Beadles Pocket Novel #208, same title and author. Doesn't make too much difference the condition, as long as they are good and all there.

Charles D. R. is also trying to get other Buffalo Bill and Buckskin Bill he needs for his collection. He says that on Feb. 26th 1963, Buffalo Bill would be 117 years old, if he were alive today, for he was born Feb. 26, 1846, and died at Denver, Colorado June 10, 1917. He was the Hero and character in 591 Buffalo Bill Stories, as well as other Buffalo Bill novels, as well as countless biographies and programs, and was also an actor on the theatrical stage, and curator of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Last year Col. Randolph says he visited the spot where the log cabin stood at the place of his birth (Wm. F. Cody)

2 and a half miles west of LeClaire, Scott County, Iowa, and while there

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I have for sale or exchange hundreds of Golden Days, Harpers Young People, Oliver Optics Mag., etc. Also many cloth bound books by Ellis, Castlemon, Optic, Henty, etc., etc. Send your want list. All letters answered.

Captain C. G. Mayo, Wild Acres, Huntington, Vermont

Charlie had his picture taken. He says the log cabin where it stood is gone, only a hollow spot remains. Charlie still wants Buffalo Bill Stor-

ies #2 3 4 6 7 26 34 39 80 89 137
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FOR SALE

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